



200 – 1627 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Telephone **(250) 405-5151** Fax (250) 405-5155

Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 660-2421. Elsewhere in BC

1.800.663.7867

Email information@islandstrust.bc.ca

Web www.islandstrust.bc.ca

April 12, 2021

Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS)
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
12666–72 Ave, Surrey, BC
Canada V3W 2M8

Re: Endorsement for an organic agriculture and food system extension service in British Columbia

I am writing on behalf of the Islands Trust Council to express their endorsement of the Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Institute for Sustainable Food Systems' development and implementation of an organic agriculture and food system extension service in British Columbia.

This extension service has the potential to contribute to the Islands Trust Council's strategic priorities for ecosystem preservation and protection and, climate change mitigation and adaptation including food security.

An organic extension service active in the Islands Trust Area would support the Islands Trust Council's strategic priorities through programs, resources, and connections that would be available to support the sustainability and viability of farms and food businesses located within the Islands Trust Area. This, in turn, will have significant influence on areas of strategic priority including ecosystem preservation and protection, climate change mitigation, and food security within the Trust Area.

We support an extension service accessible to and inclusive of all farmers and processors, regardless of organic certification status or inclination. This approach would mean that more of the farming residents within the Trust Area will have an opportunity to embrace organic agriculture principles. We have heard from First Nations about concerns they have with organic and non-organic run-off from farms contaminating shellfish harvesting areas and other marine food resources. We encourage any extension program to take a broad view of food security and ensure that on-farm practices do not jeopardize or contaminate natural food systems.

.../2

Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS)

April 12, 2021

Page 2

Thank you for considering this request. The Islands Trust Council is committed to the fulfilment of the Islands Trust Object to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia more broadly. We do this in cooperation with First Nations, municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations, and the Government of British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Luckham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter Luckham

Chair, Islands Trust Council

pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

cc: Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council